

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, with respect to the Election/Restriction Requirement, Applicants have amended claims 17 and 25 herein to correct the dependency of both claims to depend from independent claim 16, which has not been withdrawn from consideration. Applicants submit that full consideration should be given to these two claims based on these amendments. Full consideration on the merits should also be given to dependent claim 26, which depends from claim 25.

As a second preliminary matter, with respect to the drawings, Applicants have included herewith marked-up copies of Figs. 11A-18B, with the proposed changes in red. As can be seen from the proposed changes, Applicants have attempted to respond to the points noted by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action. Approval of the proposed drawing changes is respectfully requested.

As a third preliminary matter, claims 16, 21, and 24 stand objected to for informalities. With respect to claim 16, Applicants submit that the objections to this claim are all now moot, because all of the language cited by the Examiner from claim 16 has been removed by the present amendments to this claim. Applicants traverse the objections to claims 21 and 24 as follows.

With respect to claim 21, the cited grammatical error has been corrected herein to provide a proper antecedent basis for the featured element at issue. With respect to claim 24, however, Applicants submit that the lack of the “clarifying features” identified by the Examiner in claim 24 does not render the claim indefinite. The

Examiner has not established a rationale for how the broader scope of claim 24, in its original form, renders the claim vague or confusing. If the Examiner were correct in such an assertion, the addition of the suggested “clarification” alone would not render the claim less indefinite. Nevertheless, in the interests of expediting prosecution only, Applicants have amended claim 24 herein to recite at least some reference to the features suggested by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections thereto are respectfully requested.

Claims 16, 21, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Examiner finds the claim language in claim 16 that refers to both the “first insulation film” and the “gate insulation film” unsupported by Figs. 10A-10D of the Application. The Examiner bases the rejection on the assertion that “there is only one insulation film (65a) between the gate electrode (66a) and the semiconductor layer (642).” This basis for the Section 112 rejection, however, is flawed because the assertion is erroneous in at least two respects.

First, element 642 of the present invention does not represent the entire semiconductor layer itself, as stated by the Examiner, but only the channel region of the semiconductor layer. Second, the Examiner erroneously implies that the gate electrode 66a is the only gate electrode on the semiconductor layer. Figs. 10C and 10D, on the other hand, clearly show additional gate electrodes 66b and 66c on the same layer. Thus, as described on page 44 of the Specification to the present Application, when the base

insulation film 65 is etched, three insulation films 65a, 65b, 65c may be formed under the gate electrodes 66a, 66b, 66c respectively. Upon reviewing these drawings again with their accompanying text, the Examiner should find that the original claim language describing the respective insulation films under the different gate electrodes was fully supported by the Specification.

Nevertheless, in the interests of expediting prosecution, as well as to simplify the issues under consideration, Applicants have amended claim 16 further herein, to describe the same features of claim 16 instead more according to their respective locations, than by the original adjective descriptors the Examiner found confusing. All references to “the gate insulation film” have been removed from claim 16, and Applicants submit that the Section 112 rejection should be withdrawn for either the reasons discussed further above, or in light of these additional amendments.

Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Applicants’ Admitted Prior Art (“the AAPA”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the AAPA fails to describe (or suggest) a first insulation film formed only on the channel region and low density impurity regions, and not on the source and drain regions, as featured in claim 16 of the present invention, as amended.

The Examiner, on page 5 of the outstanding Office Action, asserts that the insulation film 924 of the AAPA is analogous to the first insulation film of the present invention, and that the source/drain regions “2935” are analogous to the source and drain regions formed on the substrate in the present invention. Applicants presume that the

Examiner though, meant to refer to the source/drain regions 9235 featured in Fig. 12C of the present Application, which represents the AAPA. Fig. 12C though, clearly illustrates that the insulation film 924 is *not* formed only on channel regions and low density impurity regions, but is also formed over the source/drain regions 9235.

In contrast, claim 16 of the present invention as amended recites, among other things, a first insulation film that is only formed on the channel region and the low density impurity regions. As discussed above, the AAPA shows no such structure. The insulation film 924 cited by the Examiner from the AAPA cannot therefore read upon the first insulation film of the present invention, and the Section 102 rejection is respectfully traversed for at least these reasons, and should be withdrawn.

Claims 21 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the AAPA. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to the rejection of claim 16 based on the AAPA. Claims 21 and 24 depend directly and indirectly, respectively, from independent claim 16, and therefore include all of the features of the base claim, plus additional features.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application, including claims 16-17, 21, and 24-26, is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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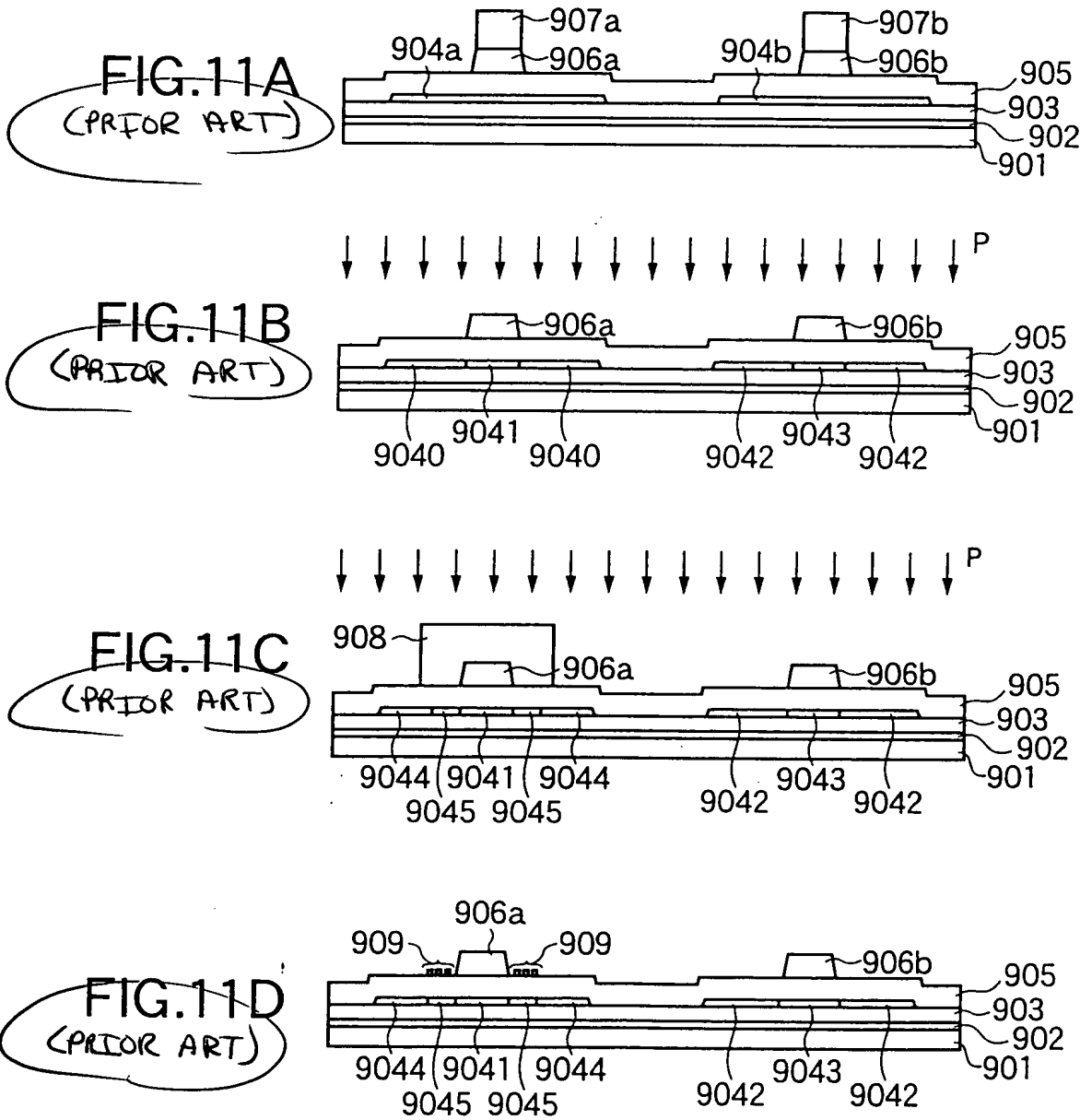
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IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please approve the drawing changes as shown in red in the attached marked-up copies of Figs. 11A-18B. A separate Letter to the Draftsman indicating the same proposed drawing changes is also enclosed.



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FIG. 12A
(PRIOR ART)

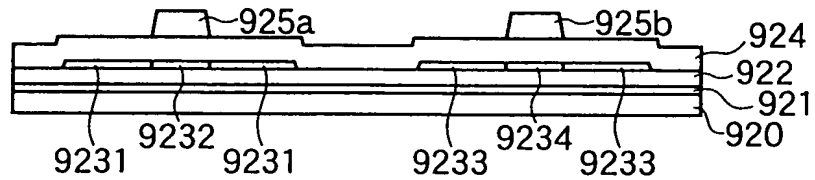


FIG. 12B
(PRIOR ART)

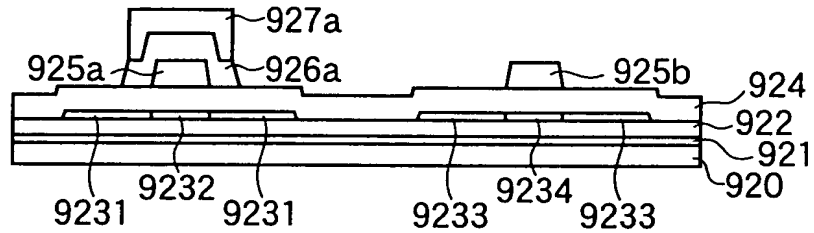
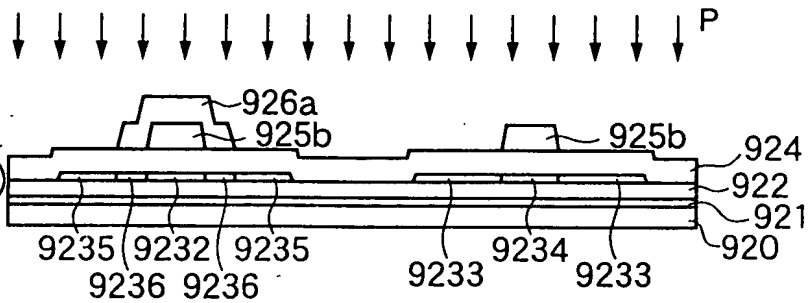
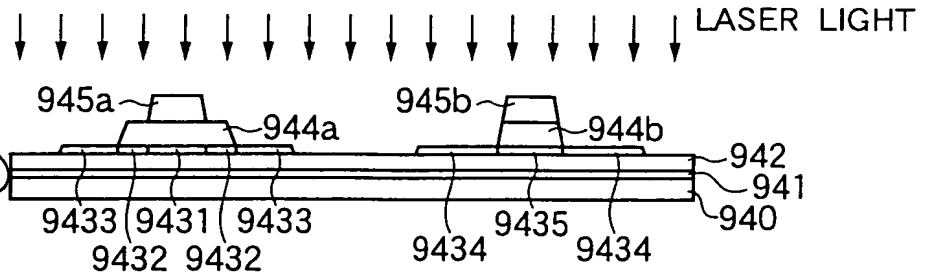
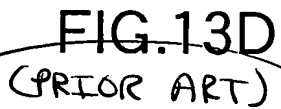
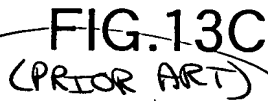
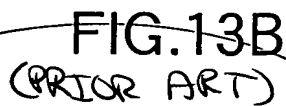


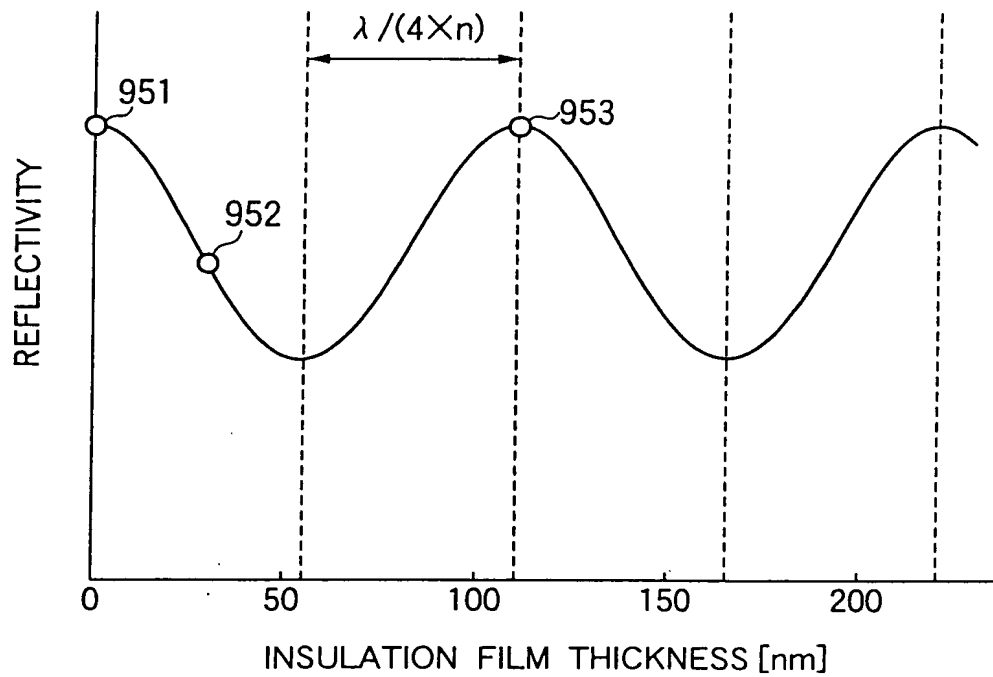
FIG. 12C
(PRIOR ART)



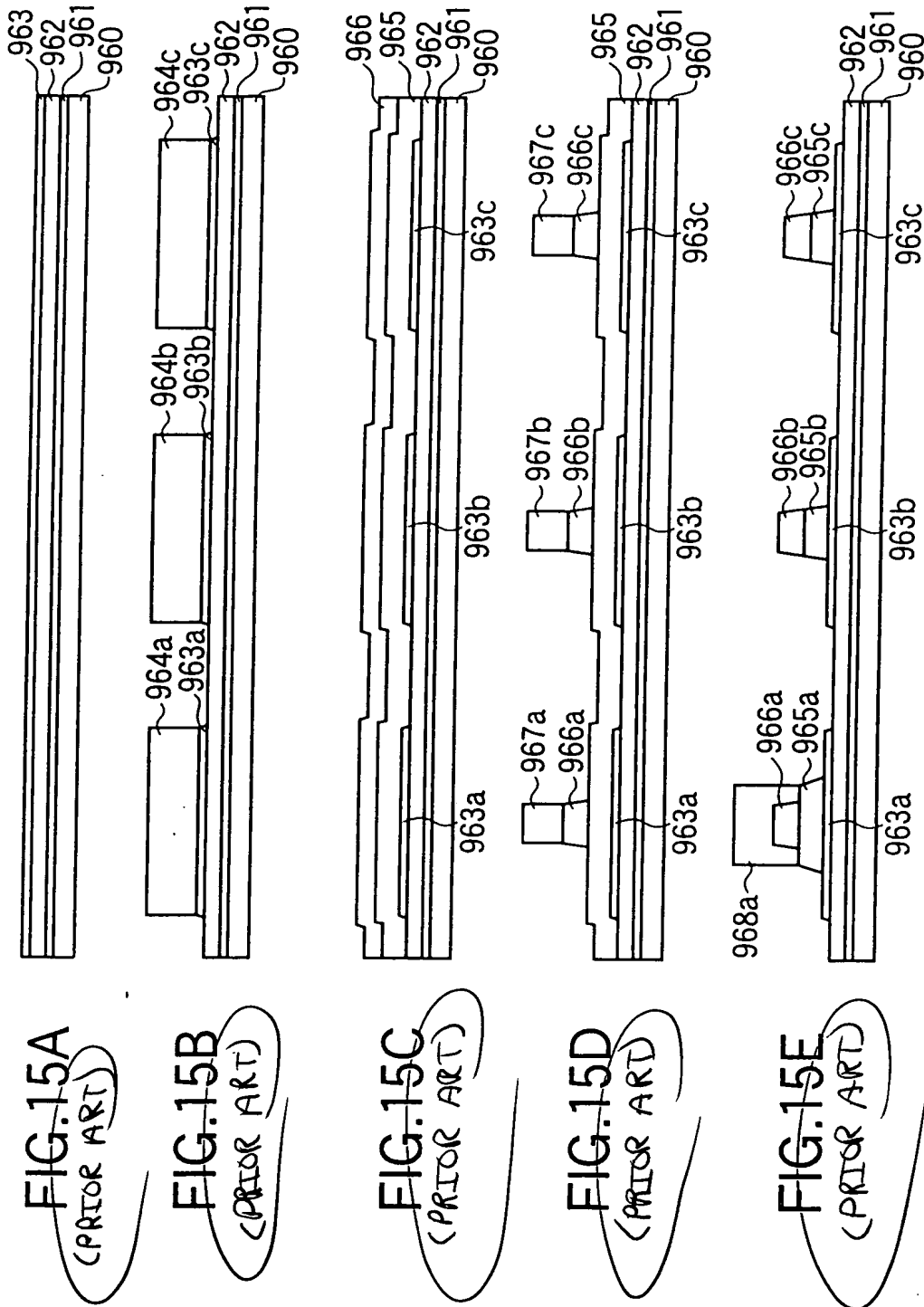


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FIG.14
(PRIOR ART)



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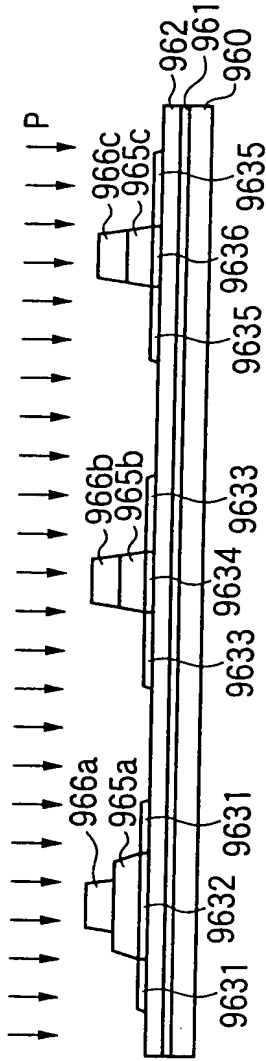


FIG. 16A
(PRIOR ART)

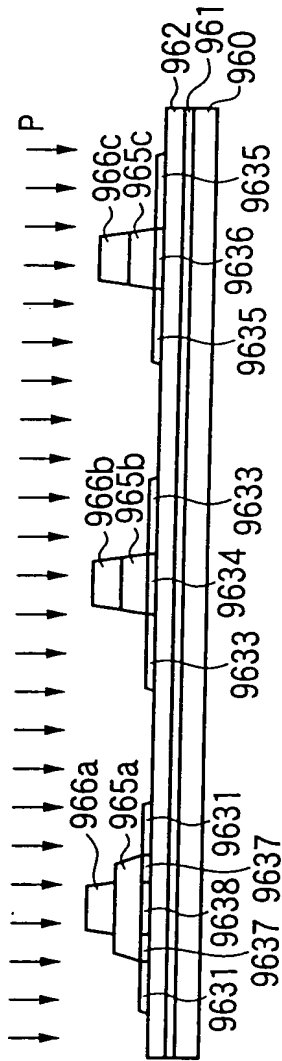


FIG. 16B
(PRIOR ART)

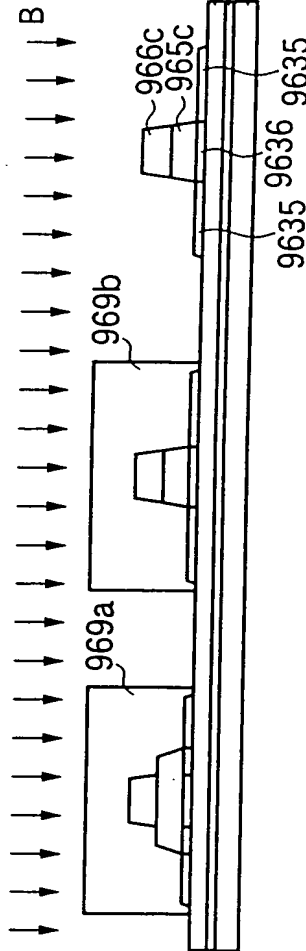


FIG. 16C
(PRIOR ART)

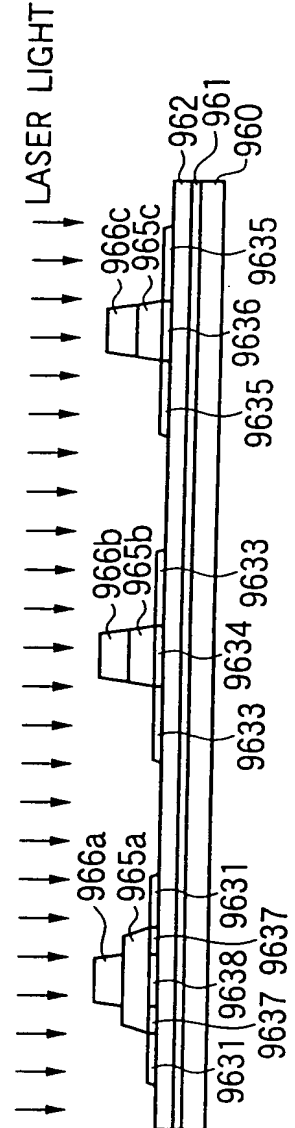


FIG. 16D
(PRIOR ART)

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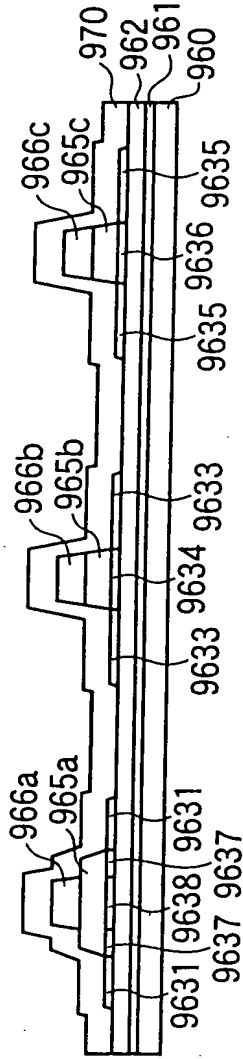


FIG. 17A
(PRIOR ART)

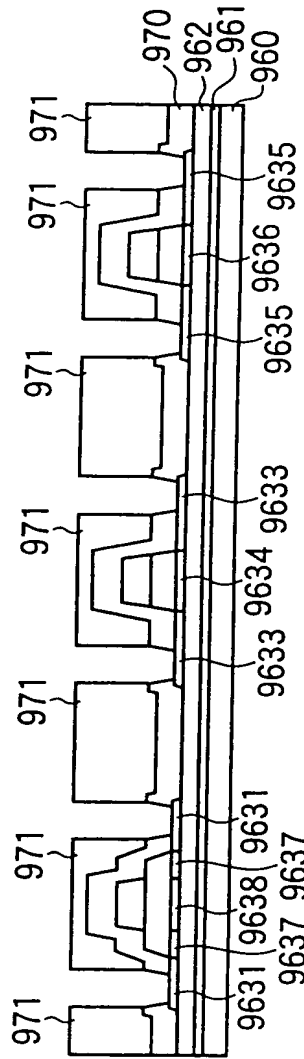


FIG. 17B
(PRIOR ART)

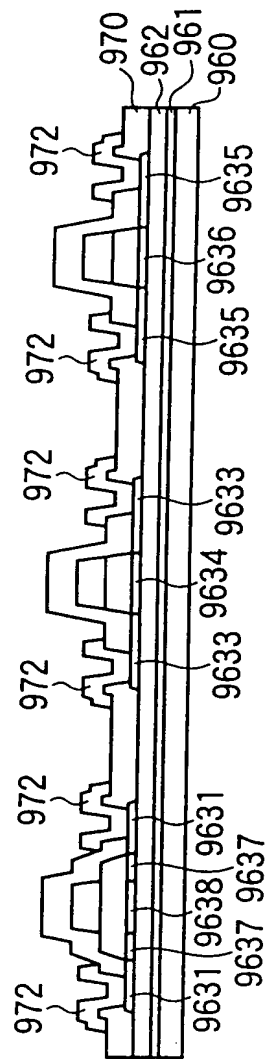


FIG. 17C
(PRIOR ART)

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FIG. 18A
(PRIOR ART)

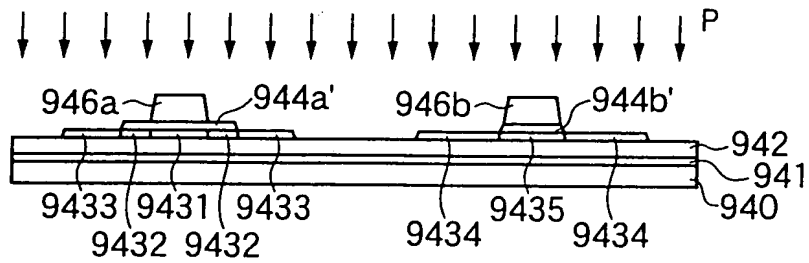


FIG. 18B
(PRIOR ART)

